Changing land use of a green area to Government Offices

762. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Urban Development Ministry issued a notification changing land use of a green area to Government Office land;

(b) is so, whether it is a fact that the 22 acre Plot No. 30 in Zone D-9 will now house a Defence Research and Development Organisation office complex; and

(c) if so, what is the compulsion for this step to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The site in question, plot No. 30 is not green but it is full of permanent structures and barracks. Ministry of Urban Development has issued a gazette notification to change the use of this plot from 'Green' to 'Government Office' and in respect of plot No. 36, from 'Government Office' to 'Green'. The exchange of land use in the same complex has ensure availability of green land.

(b) Defence Research and Development Organisation complex is proposed to come up in area of 6.20 acres and not on the total area 21.28 acres of plot No. 30.

(c) Area around North and South Block is cluttered with single and double storey barracks. The ground coverage of these structures is so high that 70% to 80% of the land consists of built up area and only 30% to 20% is left as vacant. As offices of essential and important Ministries of Government of India are housed in these barracks, it is not possible to move them out to other locations.

Purchase of Sea Harrier Jets and HMS Invincible from Britain

†763. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held any talks recently with regard to purchase of 'Sea Harrier Jet' planes and aircraft carrier HMS Invincible (Ajay) from Britain;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the costs to be incurred on purchase of the said planes and ship;

(d) whether Britain is going to withdraw its ship 'Invincible' in 2006 from its fleet: and

(e) if so, the reasons for purchasing this ship of such an obsolete technology?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Alternative medicines for treatment of high altitude ailments of soldiers

764. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences is at present using systems of alternative medicine like Homoeopathy and Ayurveda for treating soldiers suffering from high altitude injuries like frost bite; and

(b) if so, since when this system has been in use and the number of patients treated during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No system of alternate medicines like Homoeopathy or Ayurveda is in practice to treat soldiers for frost bite.

(b) Does not arise.

Efficacy of Yoga and Herbal medicines for staying fit at higher altitude

765. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Yoga and Herbal medicines have been found to help in starting fit at higher altitude;

(b) if so, whether Defence authorities have held trials of these medicines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?